

Claims

1. A method for transmitting digital data in an additional channel of a cable television system applying time division multiple access in which slots are assigned for various equipment in order to distribute the use of data transmission capacity to the equipment, and the use of slots in the cable TV system are controlled by use indications transmitted downstream; characterized in that the slots are further divided into mini slots, the use of which is controlled by indications transmitted downstream.

2. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the length of a mini slot is substantially one third of the slot length.

3. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the mini slots are divided into successive mini slot groups of regular temporal duration, and for ensuring that a specific equipment has a specific regular data transmission capacity; it is assigned at least one mini slot of a specific mini slot group so that the assigned mini slot is repeated cyclically at intervals of a certain number of mini slot groups.

4. The method of claim 3, characterized in that the cyclically repeated mini slot assigned for a specific equipment is repeated in every mini slot group and that it is always situated at the same place in relation to the start and end of the mini slot group.

5. The method of claim 3, characterized in that the cyclically repeated mini slot assigned for a specific equipment is repeated in mini slot groups between which there is a certain number of mini slot groups, in which the corresponding mini slot has not been assigned for the use of the equipment in question.

6. The method of claim 3, characterized in that, for ensuring that a specific equipment has a certain regular data transmission capacity, it is assigned several mini slots from a mini slot group so that when the assigned mini slots are repeated cyclically at intervals of a specific number of mini slot groups, they are always situated at the same place in relation to the start and end of the mini slot group.

7. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the digital data contains delay-critical data.

8. The method of claim 1, characterized in that, as a method, it is compatible with DAVIC 1.0 and 1.1 specifications.

9. A cable television system comprising a central configuration and several data terminal equipment in a data transmission connection where data is transmitted by cables, the central configuration comprising means for receiving data from data terminal equipment in accordance with a time division principle in slots, and means for establishing control commands to assign said slots for the use of separate data terminal equipment; in which cable television system, at least one data terminal equipment includes means for receiving control commands from the central configuration, and means for transmitting digital data to the central configuration in burst form in a slot defined by the control commands; characterized in that the central configuration comprises means for resynchronizing the control commands so that they assign mini slots for the use of separate data terminal equipment, which are temporally shorter than the slots, and that the data terminal equipment comprises means for transmitting data as mini bursts the size of a mini slot so that the data terminal equipment is provided to transmit data as bursts or mini bursts according to what kind of control commands it receives from the central configuration.

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